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# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PF020103		<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/08877	International filing date (day/month/year) 08.08.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 21.08.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G06K7/00			
Applicant THOMSON LICENSING S.A. et al.			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand  28.01.2004		Date of completion of this report  06.04.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized Officer  Calarasanu, P  Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2870	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/08877**

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17))*):

**Description, Pages**

1-8 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-9 as originally filed

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/2-2/2 received on 28.01.2004 with letter of 28.01.2004

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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EXAMINATION REPORT**

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**V.1.** Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US 5977758

**V.2.** Document D1, cited in the description, which is considered the best prior art, discloses (column 3, line 5 - column 4, line 61; figure 2) an appliance comprising an IC card reader and a power supply (1) for providing a supply voltage to an IC card (4) to be inserted in the card reader, and an overload protection circuit (2) which switches off the power supply to the IC card when an overload condition appears.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the state of the art in that the overload protection circuit simulates an IC card extraction in case of an overload which leads to the switching off of the supply voltage to the IC card.

**V.3.** The problem to be solved refers to how to increase the reliability of a protection circuit when an fault condition (overload, short circuit) appears when an IC card is inserted in the card reader.

**V.4.** By using a card presence switch contained in the IC card connector of the card reader, power to the IC card is provided only when a signal of the card presence switch indicates that an IC card has been inserted.

When an fault current (overload, short circuit) appears in the power supply of the IC card, the overload protection circuit simulates an card extraction by changing an card detection signal and switches off the power supply.

The overload protection circuit acts only when a card is inserted in the card reader, thus ensuring a more reliable fault detection than in the prior art, where the card presence is not considered.

Thus the subject-matter of claim 1 can be considered as novel and inventive (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

**V.5.** Claims 2 to 9 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

**Other important remarks.**

1. Claim 1 is not clear and not supported by the description.

It is not seen the relation between the power supply and the card reader or the IC card. According to the description, the supply voltage is provided to an IC card to be inserted in the card reader.

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The overload protection circuit further switches off the supply voltage to the inserted IC card when an fault current appears in the supply voltage circuit.

2. More, in claim 1 the functional statement related to the simulation of card extraction in a case of overload does not enable the skilled person to determine which technical features are necessary to perform the stated function.

According to the description, the IC card reader comprises a card presence switch and in case of an overload, the protection circuit simulates an IC card extraction by changing the card detection signal from positive to negative (see claim 2).